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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

     An ATM (Asynchronous Transfer Mode) bridge device is
5   provided which is capable of removing unwanted ATM network traffic
transmitted by a loop packet, of avoiding confusion of a layer
2 network caused by occurrence of erroneous learning, of rapidly
identifying a point where a loop has been formed, and of preventing
simultaneous formation of loops among a plurality of points caused
10 by loop setting in a plurality of interfaces. The ATM bridge device
has functions of learning a MAC (Media Access Control) address
of a packet transmitted from the ATM bridge device, of filtering
and monitoring a MAC address of a packet input from an ATM network
and judges, when receiving a packet output from the ATM bridge
15 device, the input packet as a loop-back packet to scrap the packet
and to notify an upper network layer of the loop-back packet.